(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर): (क) और (ख) वर्ष 1992-93 के बजट में, एक योजना आरम्भ की गई थी जिसके तहत कुछेक शर्तों के साथ और 450 रुपए प्रति 10 ग्राम के हिसाब से संपरिवर्तनीय विदेशी मुद्रा में शुल्क अदा करने पर, यात्रियों को सोना लाने की अनुमति दी गई थी। तत्पश्चात्, 30 अप्रैल, 1992 से इस योजना के तहत आयात किए जाने वाले सोने पर आयात शुल्क को घटाकर 220 रुपए प्रति 10 ग्राम तक कर दिया गया था।

(ग) इस योजना के आरम्भ होने से लेकर 7 दिसम्बर, 1992 तक 82.42 मीटरी टन सोने का आयात किया गया है। यात्रियों को सोना लाने की अनुमति प्रदान करने से संबंधित यीजना के लागू होने से पहले, सोने का स्वदेशी मूल्य प्रति 10 ग्राम लगभग 4700 रुपए था। इस समय, सोने का स्वेदशी मूल्य प्रति 10 ग्राम लगभग 4000 रुपए है। मांग, पूर्ति, हवाला दर आदि जैसे बहुत से ऐसे कारक हैं जिनका स्वदेशी बाजार में सोने के मूल्य पर प्रभाव पड़ता है और आयात शुल्क इनमें से मात्र एक कारक है। अतः सोने के मूल्य पर मात्र आयात शुल्क कम करने से क्या प्रभाव पड़ा है, इसका ब्यौरा देना संभव नहीं है।

(घ) और (ङ) वाणिज्य मंत्रालय द्वारा अधिसूचित विनिर्दिष्ट योजनाओं के अंतर्गत निर्यात के लिए स्वर्ण आभूषण के निर्माण के लिए आयातित सोना दि॰ 16 सितम्बर, 1992 की अधिसूचना सं॰ 273/92-सीमाशुल्क, दि॰ 6 मई, 1992 की अधिसूचना सं॰ 182/92-सीमाशुल्क और दि॰ 19 सितम्बर, 1983 की अधिसूचना सं॰ 265/83-सीमाशुल्क के अंतर्गत आयात शुल्क से पूर्ण रूप से छूट प्राप्त है।

Vacancies of Chief Executives in Financial Institutions

*314 SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1258 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 1992 and state:

(a) what is the number of posts of Chief Executives in the Financial Institutions which are lying vacant at present;

(b) what is the date from which these posts have been lying vacant;

(c) whether the delay in the appointments is affecting the working of these institutions; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There is no vacancy at the level of chief executive in the financial institutions, namely Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India, Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India, Life Insurance Corporation, General Insurance Corporation and Unit Trust of India.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Criteria for Billing of Domestic Consumers by DESU

*315. SHRI J.S. RAJU:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what procedure is being followed by DESU for biling the domestic consumers during the normal period and for the period during which the meter is faulty and also after the same is replaced;

(b) whether it is a fact that DESU charges arrears of electricity from its domestic consumers in case where the electric meter remains faulty/stops for some period;

(c) if so, what are the criteria for calculating such arrears and what is the maximum period for which the same can be charged;

(d) whether DESU also adjusts the inflated ad-hoc/provisional bills paid by the consumers during the period when the meter remained faulty; and

(e) if so, to what extent and in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e) Bills to the domestic consumers with sanctioned load of less than 11 KW are issued by DESU on an actual reading basis once in four months. In between a bi-monthly bill is issued on a provisional basis. In other categories, the bills are issued on a monthly basis. During the period when the meter is defective and awaiting replacement, DESU charges provisionally depending on the past average consumption or on the sanctioned load, wherever past average consumption is not available. When the meter is replaced an assessment is made for the period meter had been defective. Arrears are charged for the meter-defective period, in case the amount arrived at on assessment after replacement of the meter is higher than the provisional billing during the period, then the assessment is revised as per the tariff rules and conditions of supply for the period the meter had been defective. All previous provisional or ad-hoc bills as well as amounts actually paid are considered for adjustment in such cases.

Shortage of New Currency Notes

*316. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 119 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1992 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a servere shortage of new currency notes in the country; and

(b) if so, to what extent the shorage of new currency notes would be met after setting up of new currency note printing presses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) It has not been possible to fully meet the demand of fresh currency/bank notes.

(b) The capacity of the two-new currency note presses would be around 9900 million pieces per annum. This together with the present capacity will be adequate to meet the demand for fresh currency/bank notes in the country.

Functioning of UPSEB in Hilly Areas

*317. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received complaints against the functioning of UP State Electricity Board, particularly, in the hilly Districts;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is only one cash collection counter at Pauri, District-Pauri Garhwal to meet the needs of the entire district thus causing much inconvenience to the consumers;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to open some new counters near Kandiyunun Sain, Acharikhal or near Pauri for the help of consumers for depositing their electricity bills conveniently;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Inspectors never visit for physical meter reading, particularly in village-Bara, and there is no remedy to the public against overbilling in villages of Pauri Garhwal, District; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken by the Central Government to set right the affairs of UP State Electricity Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e) The State Electricity Boards are autonomous bodies created by the respective State Government in terms of the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. The Central Government does not have any direct control over their day-to-day activities like opening of new cash collection counters, physical-verification of meter reading etc. However according to the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, cash towards payment of electricity bills is collected in Pauri-Garhwal District at various places viz. Pauri, Kotdwar, Srinagar, Kalagarh, Jchrikhal (Lansdown), Satpuly,